HRP 92-5 [redacted]

CD 692

DBA 55 777

FD-204 (Rev. 8-8-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

18p

Copy to: I&NS, New Orleans

Report of: SA WARREN C. DE BRUEYS Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: October 25, 1963

Field Office File No.: 97-74 Bureau File No.: 97-4196-33

Title: (1) FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE - NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

MICROFILMED
NOV 14 1963
DOC. MICRO. SER.

Character: REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA; INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Synopsis: Information from NOPD on 8/9/63 revealed that LEE H. OSWALD was arrested on that date for disturbing the peace along with three other Cubans who had objected to OSWALD's distribution of FPCC literature. OSWALD fined $10.00 or 10 days on 8/12/63 in Municipal Court, New Orleans. OSWALD reported to have distributed FPCC literature in New Orleans 8/16/63 along with another unknown white male. OSWALD appeared on a radio program on 8/21/63 in a debate against two anti-Castro persons at which time OSWALD denied that FPCC is Communist controlled and he admitted he personally was a Marxist. OSWALD reported to have moved from New Orleans on 9/25/63 and believed to have returned to Texas. FPCC handbills distributed by OSWALD bore name of "A. J. Hidell, P. O. Box 30016", which box was determined to be nonexistent. Cuban sources at New Orleans have no pertinent information regarding anyone named HIDELL and there is no record of any such name in the New Orleans directory or from credit sources. No activity of subject organization observed since 8/16/63.

INDEX P

DETAILS:

Investigation of subject organization at New Orleans was instituted on the basis of information received on August 9, 1963, from Lieutenant WILLIAM GAILLOT, First District, New Orleans Police Department, that the following persons had been arrested on Canal and Baronne Streets in New Orleans:

CS COPY

LEE H. OSWALD, CARLOS JOSE BRINGUIER, CELSO MACARIO

[illegible] property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74

HERNANDEZ and MIGUEL MARIANO CRUZ.

Details concerning the above as made available by Lieutenant GAILLOT are as follows:

D Does

LEE H. OSWALD, white male, age 23, born October 18, 1939, New Orleans, resident 4709 Magazine, New Orleans, lower center apartment. OSWALD informed arresting officer that he is a member of the New Orleans chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee with headquarters at 799 Broadway, New York City. Lieutenant GAILLOT informed that OSWALD was handing out yellow leaflets with inscription "Hands Off Cuba, Viva Castro".

CARLOS JOSE BRINGUIER, white male, age 29, 501 Adele Street, Apartment F, New Orleans, who informed he is the Director of the Cuban Student Directorate for the New Orleans area. He informed he emigrated to this country on February 8, 1961, INS #A12546223 and has a clothing shop at 107 Decatur Street.

CELSO MACARIO HERNANDEZ, white male age 47, 519 Adele Street, Apartment E. He advised he is a member of the same group as BRINGUIER.

MIGUEL MARIANO CRUZ, white male, age 18, 2526 Mazant Street, Apartment C, advised he is also a member of the Cuban Student Directorate.

Lieutenant GAILLOT explained that OSWALD, who claimed to be a member of the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee", was passing out literature and became involved in an argument with three Cuban refugees, namely BRINGUIER, HERNANDEZ and MARIANO, who were affiliated with the Cuban Student Directorate. The following material was being disseminated by OSWALD: a yellow leaflet captioned, "Hands Off Cuba", an application to join the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" and a pamphlet entitled, "The Crime Against Cuba" by CORLISS LAMONT.

The records of the New Orleans Police Department under Arrest Number 112-723 were examined on August 27, 1963. These records showed that OSWALD was arrested on August 9, 1963, by Lieutenant WILLIAM GAILLOT and

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74

Patrolmen F. HAYWARD and F. WILSON of the First District. He was charged with "disturbing the peace by creating a scene". The records showed that OSWALD claimed to be a member of the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" and was passing out circulars in the 700 block of Canal Street and became involved in an argument with three Cuban immigrants.

On August 16, 1963, two persons, one of which is believed identical with OSWALD, who identified themselves as being connected with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC), distributed pamphlets in front of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans. They remained in that location for only a few moments and departed.

On August 19, 1963, Mr. JESSE CORE, International Trade Mart, advised that the two parties who were distributing handbills for the FPCC as set forth above were described as follows:

One was white male, 145 pounds, 5'9", age 32 or 33, pallid complexion, and black hair. The second one was described as age 22 or 23, 6', black hair, narrow shoulders and broad waist.

JOSEPH LESSLIE, Office of the Clerk of Court, Municipal Court, 501 North Rampart Street, advised on August 28, 1963, that OSWALD appeared before Second Municipal Court Judge EDWIN A. BABYLON on August 12, 1963, and entered a plea of guilty to the charge of disturbing the peace by creating a scene and was sentenced to pay a fine of $10.00 or serve ten days in jail. OSWALD elected to pay the fine. Mr. LESSLIE advised that the three persons arrested with OSWALD were discharged.

It was previously determined on August 5, 1963, from Mrs. JESSIE JAMES GARNER, 4909 Magazine Street, New Orleans, that LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his wife, MARINA NIKOLAEVNA OSWALD, have resided at 4905 Magazine Street since June, 1963.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74

Mrs. MARY BERTUCCI, Secretary, William Reilly Coffee Company, 640 Magazine Street, advised on August 5, 1963, that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had been employed as a maintenance man with that company since May 16, 1963. At the time he first was employed his address was 757 French Street.

Date 8/15/63

LEE HARVEY OSWALD was interviewed at the First District Station, New Orleans Police Department, at his request. OSWALD said that he had been picked up on August 9, 1963, by the New Orleans Police Department and was charged with disturbing the peace in the 700 block of Canal Street during the time he was distributing "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" literature.

OSWALD stated that he was unemployed at the present time, his last employment being terminated July 17, 1963, as a mechanic with the William B. Riley Company, 640 Magazine Street. He said he was born October 18, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana. He had attended Warren Easton High School in New Orleans until 1956 at which time he joined the United States Marine Corps. He had only completed two years of high school at this time. From 1956 through 1959, he was a member of the Marine Corps at which time he received an honorable discharge. Following his discharge he moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he lived with his mother, MARGURITE OSWALD. He could not recall her address in Fort Worth, but remarked that she was living now in Arlington, Texas, and was a practical nurse by profession.

About four months ago he and his wife, MARINA OSWALD, nee Prossa, whom he met and married in Fort Worth, moved to New Orleans.

After coming to New Orleans he said he began reading various pieces of literature distributed by the "Fair Play For Cuba Committe", and it was his understanding from reading this material that the main goal and theme of the committee is to prevent the United States from invading or attacking Cuba or interfering in the political affairs of that country. Further, that the people of this country should be given an opportunity to go visit Cuba, and in this way they could make up their own minds as to what the internal conditions of Cuba are like at the present time. He says he does not consider the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" to be communist or a communistic-controlled group. OSWALD said that inquiry in New Orleans developed the fact that there apparently was a chapter of the

On 8/10/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # 97-74

by SA JOHN LESTER QUIGLEY /cv/dmk Date dictated 8/15/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

"Fair Play For Cuba Committee" in New Orleans, but he did not know any of the members or where their offices were located. He said he sent a letter to the headquarters of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee", 799 Broadway, New York City, together with $5.00 and told them he wished to join this committee. During the latter part of May of this year he received a membership card in this organization which bore a date of May 28, 1963, and was made out in the name of LEE H. OSWALD and was signed by V. L. LEE. He described this card as being gray in color and signifying membership in the national organization. A short time thereafter he said he received in the mail a white card which showed that he was made a member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee. This card was dated June 6, 1963. It was signed by A. J. HIDELL, and it bore in the lower right hand corner the number 33 which he said indicated membership number. OSWALD had in his possession both cards and exhibited both of them.

Since becoming a member of the national committee, OSWALD said that he has been receiving the monthly circular of the committee which is about seven pages in length. He claimed that he could not recall the name of this publication.

Since receiving his membership card in the New Orleans Chapter of the committee he said that he had spoken with HIDELL on the telephone on several occasions. On these occasions, HIDELL would discuss general matters of mutual interest in connection with committee business, and on other occasions he would inform him of a scheduled meeting. He said he has never personally met HIDELL, and he knows HIDELL did have a telephone, but it has now been discontinued. He claimed that he could not recall what the number was.

OSWALD said that the committee did not have any offices in New Orleans, and whenever meetings were held they were held in residences of various members. He maintained that he had attended only two meetings of this committee, and at each of the meetings there were about five different individuals. At each of these meetings the

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

persons present were different. He did not know the last names of any of these individuals and claimed he was only introduced to them by first names. He maintained that he could not recall any of the first names. From what he understands there are no regularly scheduled times for meetings, and the only way he knows about them is when somebody gives him a call and tells him there will be a meeting. At these meetings he said the general conversation deals with Cuba and the latest news on the internal affairs of Cuba. OSWALD admitted that on one occasion he held a committee meeting at his home, but he declined to elaborate on how he got word to the various members that it would be held.

Last Wednesday, August 7, 1963, OSWALD said he received a note through the mail from HIDELL. The note asked him if he had time would he mind distributing some Fair Play literature in the downtown area of New Orleans. He said HIDELL knew that he was not working and probably had time. HIDELL also knew that he had considerable literature on the committee which had been furnished to him by the national committee in New York. Since he did not have anything to do, OSWALD said he decided he would go down to Canal Street and distribute some literature. He denied that he was being paid for his services, but that he was doing it as a patriotic duty.

About one P.M. on August 9, 1963, OSWALD said that he went down on Canal Street by himself and started distributed committee literature. He said he had made up a placard which he hung around his neck with a piece of string. The placard was made up of brown cardboard. On the placard were several pieces of literature which expressed the aims and purposes of the committee. At the bottom of the cardboard placard he said he had printed in black capital letters the words "Viva FIDEL". From this time until around four P.M. he said he distributed a throwaway with was prepared on yellow paper, 6" x 9"

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

in size, which contained the following: "Hands Off Cuba! Join The Fair Play For Cuba Committee, New Orleans, Charter Member Branch, Free Literature, Lectures, Location: A. J. HIDELL, P. O. Box 30016, New Orleans, Louisiana, Everybody Welcome!" In addition, OSWALD said he had on his person membership applications which he would pass out to anyone he thought desired one. This membership application was prepared on a white piece of paper 3½" wide by 8½" in length, and it contained the following information:

"To: The Fair Play for Cuba Committee
New Orleans, La.

A. J. HIDELL
P. O. Box 30016
New Orleans, La.

____ I wish to join the Committee. Enclosed is my Initiation Fee of $1.00 and dues are $1.00 a month.

____ I cannot participate as an active member of the Committee, but wish to become a subscriber to mailings. Enclosed find $5.00 for one year.

____ I would like to have a more active part in supporting the cause of FPCC. Enclosed is my contribution for____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____Zone_____State_____"

OSWALD stated in addition to this he had on his person several copies of a thirty-nine page pamphlet entitled "The Crime Against Cuba" by CORLISS LAMONT, which he carried which him as it contained all of the information regarding the committee, and he would be in a position to refer to it for proper answers in the event someone questioned him regarding the aims and purposes of the committee.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

OSWALD had in his possession at the time of interview a copy of the above three described documents and made available a copy of each to the Agent.

Around 4 P.M. while standing in the immediate vicinity of Walgreen's Drug Store at Canal and Baronne Streets, OSWALD said three Cubans approached him, and he gave each one of the above-described throwaways. These individuals became very angry, tore up the throwaways, threw them down on the sidewalk and began arguing with him. This created quite a disturbance and shortly thereafter the police arrived, and he, as well as the other individuals whom he understood to be Cuban exiles, was arrested.

OSWALD said it was his understanding that around one P.M. on August 12,1963, he was to be taken into City Court, New Orleans, and charged with disturbing the peace.

For further identification OSWALD exhibited a U. S. Marine Corps, Inactive Reserve, IV-5, Identification Card, which showed that LEE HARVEY OSWALD, USM Serial Number 1653230, had served on active duty from period of October 24, 1956 to September 11, 1959. This ID card had been signed by Lieutenant A. G. AYERS, USMCR.

From observation and questionning, OSWALD is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	23
Date of Birth	October 18, 1939
Place of Birth	New Orleans, Louisiana (at time of arrest claimed from Cuba)
Height	5'9"
Weight	140 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue-hazel

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74
6

Teeth	Good
Marital Status	Married, wife, MARINA OSWALD, nee Prossa
Occupation	Mechanic
Military Record	U. S. Marine Corps, October 24, 1956 to September 11, 1959, MSN 1653230, honorable discharge
Criminal Record	Denies any
Residence	4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74

The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 13, 1963, contained the following news article:

"Pamphlet Case
Sentence Given

"Lee Oswald, 23, 4907 Magazine, Monday was sentenced to pay a fine of $10 or serve 10 days in jail on a charge of disturbing the peace by creating a scene.

"Oswald was arrested by First District police at 4:15 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of Canal while he was reportedly distributing pamphlets asking for a "Fair Play for Cuba".

"Police were called to the scene when three Cubans reportedly sought to stop Oswald. Municipal charges against the Cubans for disturbing the peace were dropped by the court."

Confidential source fimiliar with Cuban activities in the New Orleans area were contacted during the month of September, 1963 and each advised he had no knowledge regarding OSWALD or any of the activities of subject organization in New Orleans, except the information regarding OSWALD's arrest and distribution of FPCC handbills.

Mrs. JESSIE JAMES GARNER, 4909 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised on October 1, 1963 that Mr. and Mrs. OSWALD vacated their apartment on September 25, 1963. Mrs. OSWALD and young child left in station wagon bearing Texas license plate driven by same woman who brought Mrs. OSWALD to New Orleans from Texas. LEE OSWALD told Mrs. GARNER that his wife is going to have a baby and that she was going to Texas for the event. She said OSWALD left owing her 17 days rent for apartment.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74

Mrs. CHARLES F. MURRET, 1757 French Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, LEE OSWALD's aunt, advised on October 1, 1963, that when Mrs. OSWALD originally came to New Orleans a woman driving a station wagon brought her and the baby from Texas. This woman spoke the Russian language and apparently was well known by Mrs. OSWALD. Mrs. MURRET believed that Mrs. OSWALD lived with this woman in Texas while LEE OSWALD was seeking employment in New Orleans.

On October 7, 1963, NO T-1 advised that there is no such Post Office Box as 30016 in the New Orleans area.

Mrs. JESSIE JAMES GARNER, 4909 Magazine Street, advised on October 7, 1963 that LEE OSWALD and his wife did not have any meeting to her knowledge when he was residing at 4907 Magazine Street. She advised that they did have some friends, approximately three or four people, who used to visit them on occasions. She had no information as to the identity of these persons. She stated she had not learned where OSWALD had gone but presumed he had returned to Texas.

On October 15, 1963, NO T-2, who is cognizant of some CP activities in the New Orleans area advised that T-2 is not acquainted with OSWALD or his wife and has no knowledge of any activities on the part of subject organization in New Orleans.

On October 7, 1963, inquiry made at the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau, New Orleans, failed to indicate that there was anyone with a credit record in New Orleans by the name of A. J. HIDELL. The city directory in New Orleans contained no record in the name of A. J. HIDELL.

On September 12, 1963, confidential informant NO T-3 made available a transcript of a radio broadcast animated from radio station WDSU, New Orleans, on August 21, 1963, from the program known as "Conversation Carte Blanche". This transcript revealed that on August 21, 1963, LEE HARVEY OSWALD appeared on the aforementioned radio program along with ED BUTLER, Executive Director of the Information Council of the Americas, New Orleans, which organization specializes in the distribution of anti-Communist educational material through Latin America.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NO 97-74

Also on the program was CARLOS BRINGUIER, a Cuban refugee connected with the Revoluntionary Student Directorate. Both BUTLER and BRINGUIER are anti-Castro and during this program debated with OSWALD. Some of the pertinent statements made by OSWALD during this program included the following: that the FPCC is not communist controlled and that he, OSWALD, is a Marxist.

APPENDIX

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

The April 6, 1960, edition of "The New York Times" newspaper contained a full-page advertisement captioned "What Is Really Happening In Cuba", placed by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC). This advertisement announced the formation of the FPCC in New York City and declared the FPCC intended to promulgate "the truth about revolutionary Cuba" to neutralize the distorted American press.

"The New York Times" edition of January 11, 1961 reported that at a hearing conducted before the United States Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on January 10, 1961, Dr. Charles A. Santos-Buch identified himself and Robert Taber as organizers of the FPCC. He also testified he and Taber obtained funds from the Cuban Government which were applied toward the cost of the afore-mentioned advertisement.

On May 16, 1963, a source advised that during the first two years of the FPCC's existence there was a struggle between Communist Party (CP) and Socialist Workers Party (SWP) elements to exert their power within the FPCC and thereby influence FPCC policy. However, during the past year this source observed there has been a successful effort by FPCC leadership to minimize the role of these and other organizations in the FPCC so that today their influence is negligible.

On May 20, 1963, a second source advised that the National Headquarters of the FPCC is located in Room 329 at 799 Broadway, New York City. According to this source, the position of National Office Director was created in the fall of 1962 and was filled by Vincent "Ted" Lee, who now formulates FPCC policy. This source, observed Lee has followed a course of entertaining and accepting the cooperation of many other organizations including the CP and SWP when he has felt it would be to his personal benefit as well as the FPCC's. However, Lee has indicated to this source he has no intention of permitting FPCC policy to be determined by any other organization. Lee feels the FPCC should advocate resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States and support the right of Cubans to manage their revolution without interference from other nations, but not support the Cuban revolution per se.

The CP and the SWP have been designated pursuant

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

APPENDIX

CORLISS LAMONT

On September 28, 1953, Louis F. Budenz testified before the United States Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee that Earl Browder, as head of the Communist Party (CP) in the United States, had referred to Corliss Lamont as one of the "four prides" of the CP because Corliss Lamont was ready to cooperate with any Communist front or any Communist cause. Browder made this reference at a National Committee meeting of the CP in the early 1940's. Budenz also recalled that Lamont was a member of the CP when he, Budenz, was a member.

"Rights", self-identified as a publication of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) April - May, 1962, issue, reveals Corliss Lamont is Vice-Chairman of the ECLC.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

APPENDIX

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1961, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee:

"Emergency Civil Liberties Committee

"1. 'The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is an organization with headquarters in New York, whose avowed purpose is to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and discredit the FBI. * * * The committee finds that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, established in 1951, although representing itself as a non-Communist group, actually operates as a front for the Communist Party. It has repeatedly assisted, by means of funds and legal aid, Communists involved in Smith Act violations and similar legal proceedings. One of its chief activities has been and still is the dissemination of voluminous Communist propaganda material.'

'FRANK WILKINSON was called as a witness when he appeared in Atlanta as a representative of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee to propagandize against the Committee on Un-American Activities and to protest its hearings. In 1956 WILKINSON was identified as a Communist Party member by a former FBI undercover agent within the party. Summoned at that time to answer the allegation, his reply to all questions was, "I am answering no questions of this committee." This also became his stock reply to questions when he appeared during the Atlanta hearings * * * WILKINSON has

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

APPENDIX

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

since been convicted of contempt of Congress and sentenced to one year in jail.'

'Disputing the non-Communist claim of the organization, the committee finds that a number of other individuals connected with the ECLC also have been identified under oath as Communists. * * * (Committee on Un-American Activities, Annual Report for 1958, House Report 187, March 9, 1959, pp. 34 and 35.)

'To defend the cases of Communist Law-breakers, fronts have been devised making special appeals in behalf of civil liberties and reaching out far beyond the confines of the Communist Party itself. Among these organizations are the * * * Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. When the Communist Party itself is under fire these fronts offer a bulwark of protection.' (Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Dec. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 91)."

APPENDIX

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DBA 55 111

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
October 25, 1963

Title	FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE - NEW ORLEANS DIVISION
Character	REGISTRATION ACT - CUBA; INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA
Reference	Report of SA WARREN C. DE BRUEYS dated October 25, 1963 at New Orleans.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.